

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

a storage unit storing sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;

a purchaser registration unit registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

a publication unit making the sales-related information public to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith; and

a management unit recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers and updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period ~~meets at least one criterion~~ is less than a predetermined threshold.

2. (currently amended) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein the sales-related information is ~~set~~ selected for each purchaser company by the seller.

3. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein information registered in said purchaser registration unit is updated based on a trade between the seller and each purchaser.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

a storage unit storing sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually ~~set~~selected for at least one of the purchasers and a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

a management unit recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers and updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period ~~meets at least one criterion~~ is less than a predetermined threshold; and

a publication unit making public the sales-related information to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

7. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 6, wherein the sales-related information is updated based on a trade between the seller and each purchaser.

8. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;

registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith, according to an instruction from the seller;

making public the sales-related information to any of the registered purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and

updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period ~~meets at least one criterion~~ is less than a predetermined threshold.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually ~~set~~ selected for at least one of the purchasers;

registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and

updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period ~~meets at least one criterion~~ is less than a predetermined threshold; and

making public the sales-related information to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

11. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer to perform a method comprising:

providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;

receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;

registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith, according to an instruction from the seller; and

making public the sales-related information to any of the registered purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and

updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period ~~meets at least one criterion~~ is less than a predetermined threshold.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer to perform a method comprising:

- providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;
- receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually ~~set~~selected for at least one of the purchasers from the seller; and
- registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;
- recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers;
- updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period ~~meets at least one criterion~~ is less than a predetermined threshold; and
- making public the sales-related information to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

14. (previously presented) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic purchase system is used by a plurality of sellers, and wherein the electronic purchase system further comprises a discount unit discounting a trade price for a current trade if a total or average trade amount of a purchaser for a past specific period for at least one of the sellers exceeds a specific value, when the purchaser purchases a commodity from the seller.

15. (previously presented) The electronic purchase system according to claim 14, wherein a discount amount reduced from a current trade price is calculated based on the total or average trade amount of the purchaser for the past specific period.

16. (previously presented) The electronic purchase system according to claim 14, wherein the total or average trade amount is the total or average trade amount between the seller and the purchaser in the current trade for the past specific period.